KID COLT OUTLAW
MARVEL COMICS GROUP™
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
25¢
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KID COLT OUTLAW™
MOVE OVER, OWLHOOTS--I'M COMING THRU!
DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME, KID! WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH THEM--
--YOU STILL HAVE TO FACE BLACK BASSETT!
WESTERN ACTION AS YOU LIKE IT!

3 COMPLETE FISHING OUTFITS
NATIONALLY ADVERTISED 1975 MODELS
2 LOADED TACKLE BOXES · 66 DEADLY LURES
411 Pcs.

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2 LEAKPROOF FLOATING TACKLE BOXES
3 EXPERTLY BALANCED RODS AND REELS
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ARGOSY DIRECT DRIVE TROLLING REEL
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28 pc. POPPING LURE SET
POWER ACTION BLACK MAGIC FIBRE-GLASS RODS
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SELECT QUALITY MONOFILAMENT LINE
SENSATIONAL VALUE !
$14.95
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NEW! SUPER "88" AUTOMATIC DUAL DRAG SPINCAST REEL
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NEW
50 NATURAL BAIT LURES
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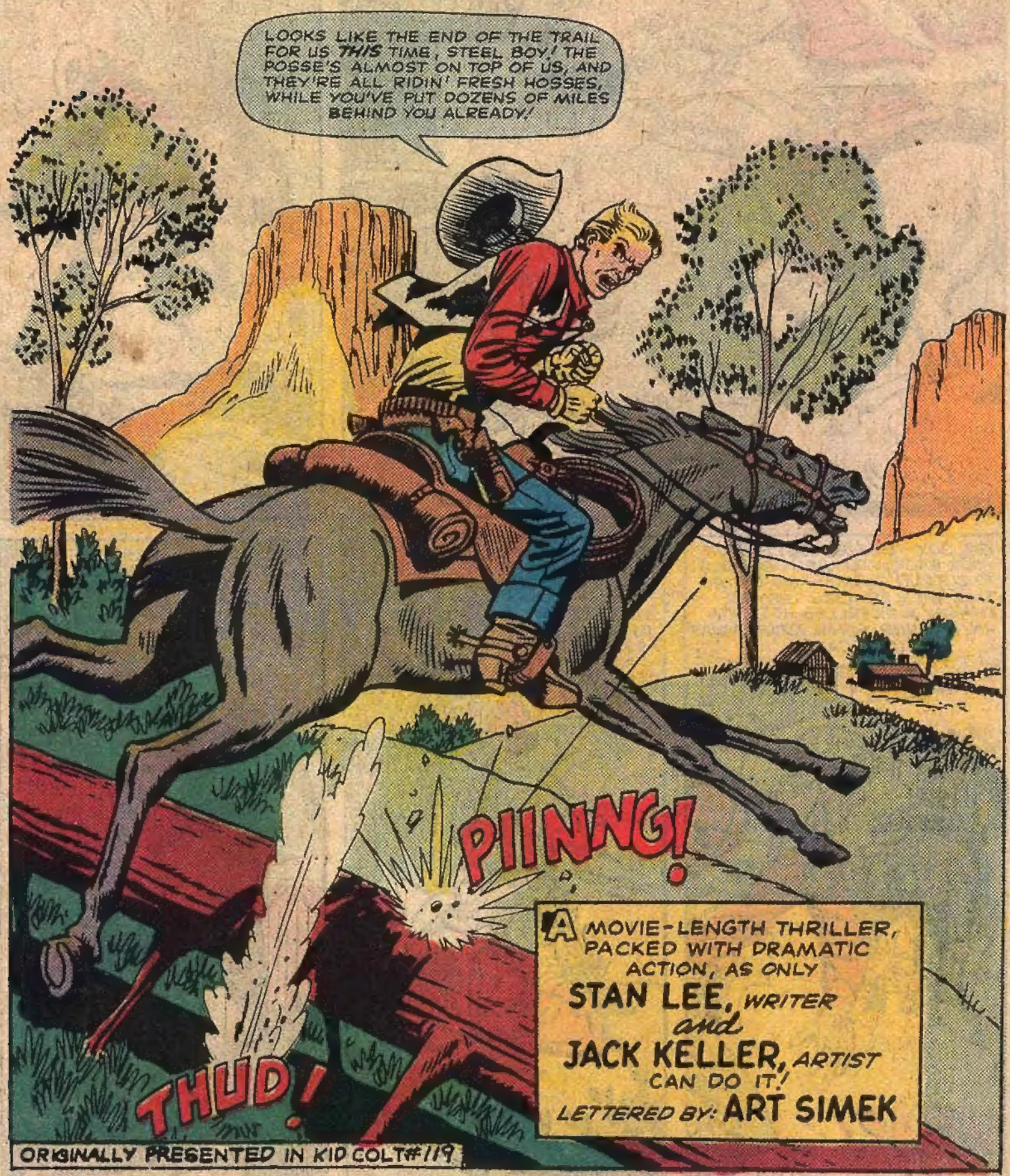
THE SAGA OF BASSETT the BADMAN


LOOKS LIKE THE END OF THE TRAIL FOR US THIS TIME, STEEL BOY! THE POSSE'S ALMOST ON TOP OF US, AND THEY'RE ALL RIDIN' FRESH HOSSES, WHILE YOU'VE PUT DOZENS OF MILES BEHIND YOU ALREADY!
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LETTERED BY: ART SIMEK

ORIGINALLY PRESENTED IN KID COLT #119

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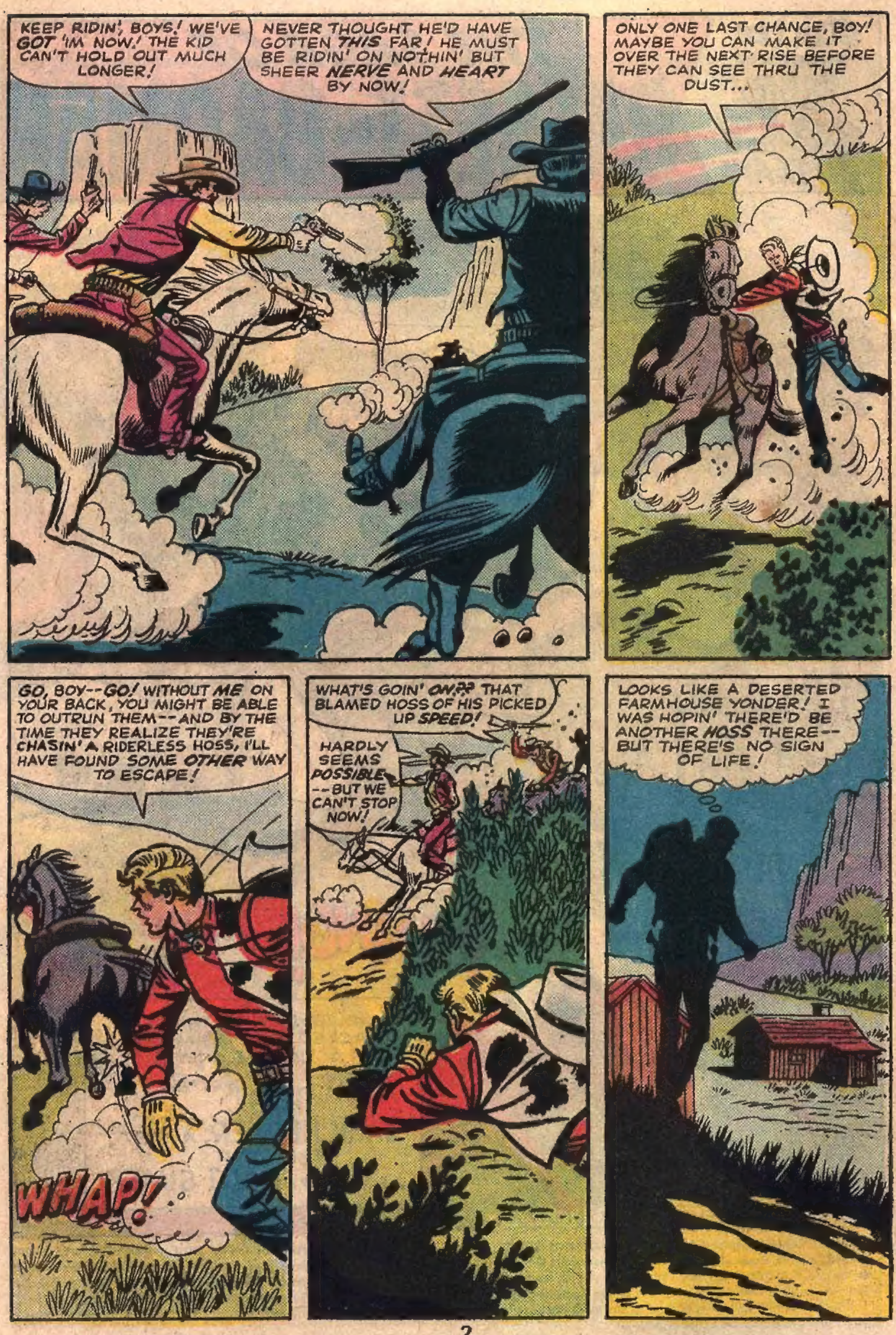
KEEP RIDIN', BOYS! WE'VE GOT 'IM NOW! THE KID CAN'T HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER!
NEVER THOUGHT HE'D HAVE GOTTEN THIS FAR! HE MUST BE RIDIN' ON NOTHIN' BUT SHEER NERVE AND HEART BY NOW!
ONLY ONE LAST CHANCE, BOY! MAYBE YOU CAN MAKE IT OVER THE NEXT RISE BEFORE THEY CAN SEE THRU THE DUST...
GO, BOY--GO! WITHOUT ME ON YOUR BACK, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO OUTRUN THEM--AND BY THE TIME THEY REALIZE THEY'RE CHASIN' A RIDERLESS HOSS, I'LL HAVE FOUND SOME OTHER WAY TO ESCAPE!
WHAP!
WHAT'S GOIN' ON?? THAT BLAMED HOSS OF HIS PICKED UP SPEED!
HARDLY SEEMS POSSIBLE--BUT WE CAN'T STOP NOW!
LOOKS LIKE A DESERTED FARMHOUSE YONDER! I WAS HOPIN' THERE'D BE ANOTHER HOSS THERE--BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF LIFE!

MEANWHILE, AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, THE WEARY, STEEL-GREY STALLION TRIPS OVER A GOPHER HOLE, AND...
THE HOOFBEATS STOPPED! HIS HOSS MUSTA TRIPPED! WE'VE GOT 'IM!
THERE'S NO ONE ON THE SADDLE! HE GAVE US THE SLIP!
HE CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR! WE SAW HIM ON HIS HOSS WHEN HE RODE TOWARDS THE BASSETT FARM!
HE'S ON FOOT NOW! SO HE STILL DOESN'T HAVE A CHANCE! HEAD BACK TO BASSETT'S PLACE!
AND BE MIGHTY CAUTIOUS, BOYS! THE KID'S SUPPOSED TO BE A WIZARD WITH A GUN--AND HE'S AT BAY NOW --HE MIGHT TRY ANYTHING!
MINUTES LATER...
THERE'S THE FARM-HOUSE NOW! BUT NO SIGN OF THE KID!
DO YOU EXPECT HIM TO BE STANDIN' OUT FRONT, WAVING TO YA?? KEEP YOUR GUNS READY, BOYS!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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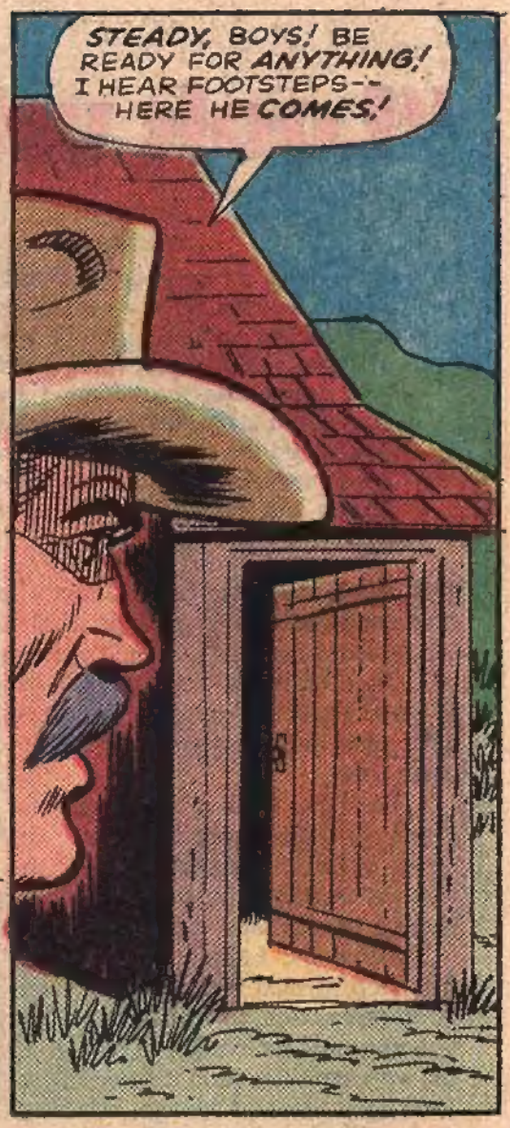
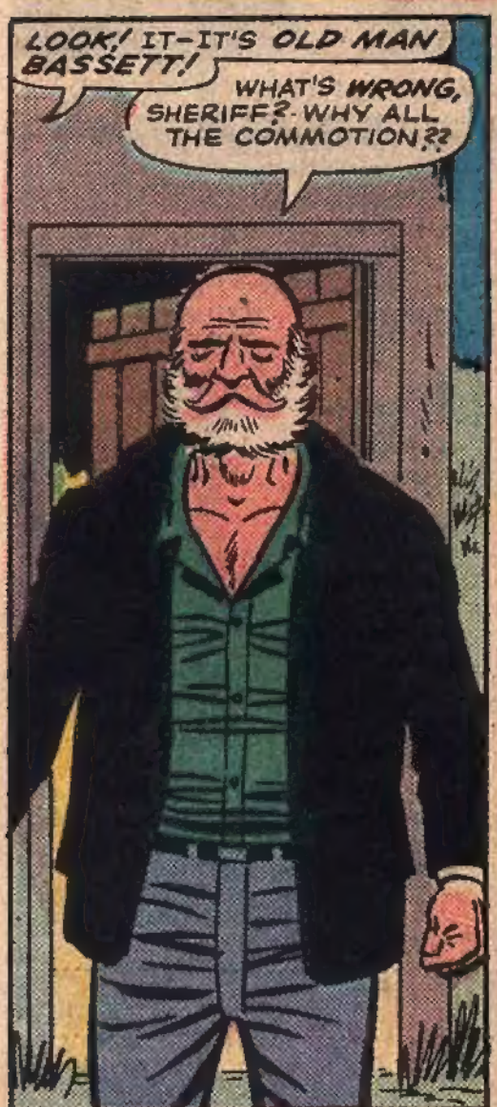
HEL-LO, THE HOUSE! WE KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE, KID! YOU HAVEN'T A CHANCE!
COME ON OUT, OR WE'LL COME IN AFTER YA!
NO ANSWER! HE WANTS TO MAKE A FIGHT OF IT!
WAIT! THE DOOR'S OPENIN'!


STEADY, BOYS! BE READY FOR ANYTHING! I HEAR FOOTSTEPS-- HERE HE COMES!


LOOK! IT-IT'S OLD MAN BASSETT!
WHAT'S WRONG, SHERIFF? WHY ALL THE COMMOTION??

SORRY TO DISTURB YOU, MR. BASSETT! DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HOME!
WE'RE LOOKIN' FOR A DANGEROUS OWLHOOT, NAME OF KID COLT! HE'S HIDIN' HERE SOMEWHERE!

YOU MEAN A MEDIUM-SIZE, YOUNG-LOOKIN' JASPER-- WITH A BUCKSKIN VEST?? I SAW HIM RUNNING OVER THAT RISE NOT MORE'N TEN MINUTES AGO! I PLUMB WONDERED WHO HE WAS!

THE STAGE WAS DUE TO PASS THAT WAY A FEW MINUTES AGO! MAYBE HE MANAGED TO CATCH IT! LET'S GO!
BUT, SHERIFF--THAT STAGE GOES CLEAR OUT TO RIO VISTA! FROM HERE ON, IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY MORE STOPS FOR TWO DAYS!
AND IT'S PULLED BY THE FASTEST TEAM OF HOSSES IN THESE PARTS! WE CAN'T CATCH IT TILL RIO VISTA!
TWO DAYS DON'T MATTER! THE KID MUSTN'T ESCAPE! START RIDIN'!
ALRIGHT, KID! YOU CAN COME OUT OF THAT BARREL NOW! I KNEW YOU WERE IN THERE ALL THE TIME!
HE SAVED ME! BUT WHY?? WHAT'S HE AFTER??
I'M MIGHTY GRATEFUL FOR WHAT YOU DID, MISTER BASSETT, THOUGH I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHY'D YOU GIVE THE POSSE A BUM STEER?
I HAD MY REASONS! COME INTO THE HOUSE--AND I'LL TELL YOU!
RECKON I'VE NOTHING TO LOSE!

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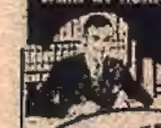

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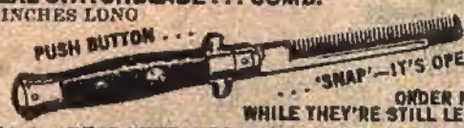

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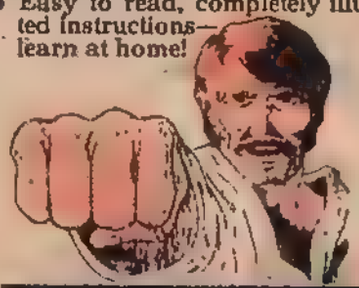

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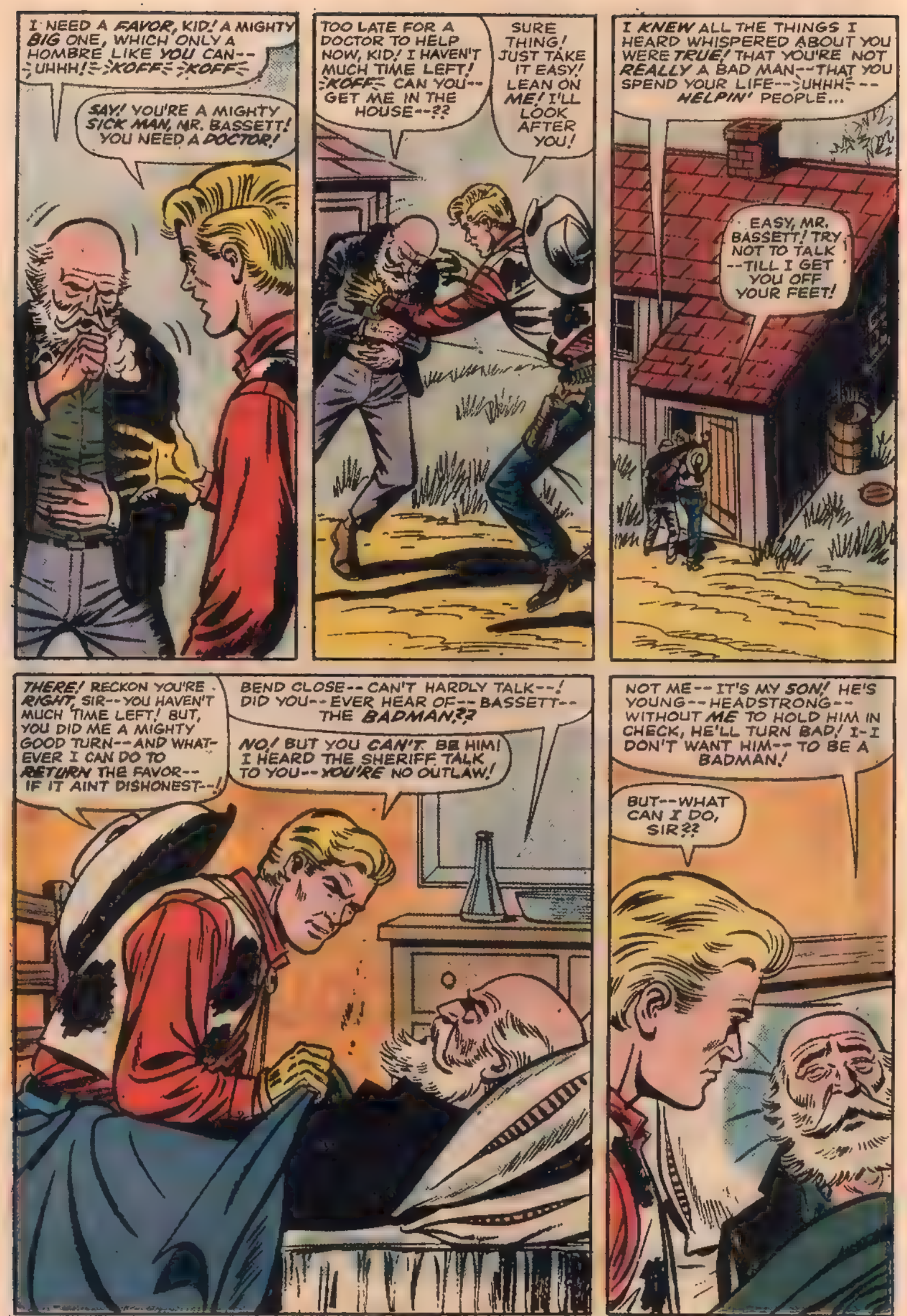
I NEED A FAVOR, KID! A MIGHTY BIG ONE, WHICH ONLY A HOMBRE LIKE YOU CAN--
UHHH! KOFF KOFF
SAY! YOU'RE A MIGHTY SICK MAN, MR. BASSETT! YOU NEED A DOCTOR!
TOO LATE FOR A DOCTOR TO HELP NOW, KID! I HAVEN'T MUCH TIME LEFT! KOFF CAN YOU-- GET ME IN THE HOUSE--??
SURE THING! JUST TAKE IT EASY! LEAN ON ME! I'LL LOOK AFTER YOU!
I KNEW ALL THE THINGS I HEARD WHISPERED ABOUT YOU WERE TRUE! THAT YOU'RE NOT REALLY A BAD MAN--THAT YOU SPEND YOUR LIFE--UHHH-- HELPIN' PEOPLE...
EASY, MR. BASSETT! TRY NOT TO TALK --TILL I GET YOU OFF YOUR FEET!
THERE! RECKON YOU'RE RIGHT, SIR--YOU HAVEN'T MUCH TIME LEFT! BUT, YOU DID ME A MIGHTY GOOD TURN--AND WHATEVER I CAN DO TO RETURN THE FAVOR-- IF IT AINT DISHONEST--!
BEND CLOSE-- CAN'T HARDLY TALK--! DID YOU-- EVER HEAR OF-- BASSETT-- THE BADMAN??
NO! BUT YOU CAN'T BE HIM! I HEARD THE SHERIFF TALK TO YOU--YOU'RE NO OUTLAW!
NOT ME-- IT'S MY SON! HE'S YOUNG--HEADSTRONG-- WITHOUT ME TO HOLD HIM IN CHECK, HE'LL TURN BAD! I-I DON'T WANT HIM-- TO BE A BADMAN!
BUT--WHAT CAN I DO, SIR??

JUST SEE HIM--TALK TO HIM--TELL HIM HOW TERRIBLE A BADMAN'S LIFE IS! MAYBE--HE'LL LISTEN--TO YOU!
IT'S AN EASY THING TO TELL, MISTER BASSETT --A TRUE THING! THERE AINT A WORSE LIFE POSSIBLE!
I THANK YOU, KID--AND--I BLESS YOU--! I KNOW YOU'LL DO IT! I KNOW--YOU'LL STOP--MY SON FROM--TURNIN' BAD...!
I SWEAR I'LL DO MY BEST, MR. BASSETT! DON'T WORRY--I'LL FIND HIM, AND TRY TO HELP!
THANK YOU, KID--THA--UHHHÉ...
HE'S GONE!
A SHORT TIME LATER, AFTER THE HEAVY-HEARTED GUNFIGHTER DOES WHAT HAS TO BE DONE, HE TURNS SLOWLY AWAY FROM THE BASSETT FARM, DETERMINED TO LIVE UP TO THE PLEDGE HE MADE TO A DYING MAN...!
SLEEP EASY, MR. BASSETT! YOU WERE A GOOD MAN...

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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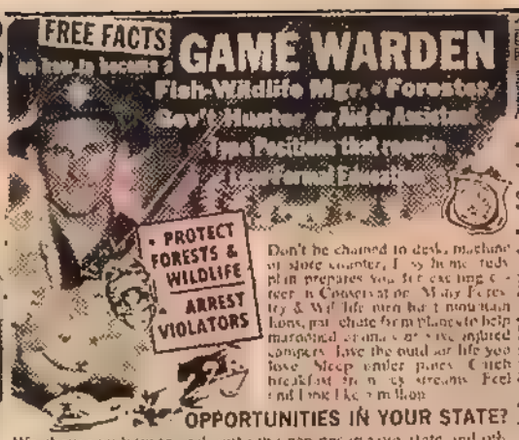

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MEANWHILE, IN THE NEARBY TOWN OF BEDROCK...
YOU LOSE AGAIN, BASSETT! THAT FINISHES YA! YOU DON'T PLAY ANY MORE TILL I SEE THE COLOR OF YOUR MONEY!
GUESS AGAIN, MR. WILKS! BEN BASSETT CAN ALWAYS GET PLENTY OF MORE MONEY WHERE THAT CAME FROM! I'LL WIN IT ALL BACK YET!
ANYWAY, I GOT A FEELIN' YOU'VE BEEN CHEATIN' ME! NOBODY CAN WIN EVERY SINGLE HAND LIKE YOU KEPT DOIN'! I SAY YOU COLD-DECKED ME!
THOSE ARE FIGHTING WORDS, BASSETT! NOBODY ACCUSES FARO WILKS OF CHEATIN' UNLESS HE CAN BACK HIS WORDS WITH HARD LEAD!
YOU'RE NOT SCARIN' ME, MISTER! I DON'T WEAR MY GUN JUST FOR SHOW!
I SAY YOU'RE A LOW-DOWN, THIEVIN' COYOTE! AND I SAY I'M DRAWIN' AGAINST YA, UNLESS I GET ALL MY MONEY BACK BEFORE I COUNT THREE! ONE--
I'VE GOT TO STALL HIM TILL MONTANA CAN GET 'IM FROM BEHIND!

NOW LOOK, BOY-- THERE'S NO NEED TO BE UNREASONABLE! WE CAN SETTLE THIS PEACEFULLY...!
SINGIN' A DIFFERENT TUNE NOW, HUH?
DROP THAT IRON, BASSETT!
YOU YOUNG FOOL! DID YOU THINK I'D LET YOU OUTSMART ME?? LET 'IM HAVE IT, MONTANA!
NOBODY MOVE! IF THERE'S GONNA BE ANY GUNPLAY HERE, KID COLT'LL DO IT!
KID COLT! AND THE SHERIFF'S POSSE IS MILES FROM HERE!
WHAT'RE YOU BUTTIN' IN FOR, HOMBRE! THIS AINT NO FIGHT OF YOURS!
I'M MAKIN' IT MY FIGHT! ANY OBJECTIONS.??!
COME ON, MONTANA! LET'S GO! THE KID'S HOLDIN' THE TRUMP CARD NOW!
SO YOU'RE BEN BASSETT! I WANNA HAVE A LITTLE PALAVER WITH YOU, BOY!
FORGET IT, MISTER! I DIDN'T ASK YA TO TAKE MY SIDE! I COULDA BEAT 'EM ALONE!

MEBBE SO, BEN! BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANNA TALK TO YOU ABOUT! IT'S YOUR FATHER! I HAVETA TELL YOU SOMETHING!
MY PA??! WHAT IS IT?? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM?
HE'S--DEAD, BEN! I WAS THERE WHEN IT HAPPENED! HE WANTED ME TO BREAK IT TO YOU!
PA! DEAD! IT-IT DON'T SEEM POSSIBLE! I NEVER EVEN GOT TO SAY GOODBYE!
THEN, WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, THE GRIEVING YOUTH MOUNTS UP AND GALLOPS FOR HIS FARM...
I'LL HAVE TO WAIT HERE--SEE WHAT HE DOES WHEN HE RETURNS!
THEN, A FEW HOURS LATER, BEN BASSETT APPEARS ONCE MORE! BUT THIS TIME HE SEEMS OLDER, HARDER, MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVER!
RELAX, BOYS! I'M NOT HERE FOR GUNPLAY! I FOUND MY PA'S SAVINGS--AND I'M GONNA USE 'EM TO WIN EVERY LAST CENT YOU HAVE, WILKS!
THE FOOL! HE STILL HASN'T LEARNED! HE'LL BE PENNILESS BEFORE HE LEAVES HERE AGAIN!
SURE, BEN--SURE! NO HARD FEELINGS! I BELIEVE IN LETTIN' BYGONES BE BYGONES! WE'LL JUST HAVE US A NICE FRIENDLY GAME NOW!
NEVER MIND THE SOFT TALK, HOMBRE! JUST GET THE CARDS!

BUT, AS THE MINUTES CRAWL BY, BASSETT ONCE AGAIN LOSES HAND AFTER HAND...
I'M TIRED OF CARDS! LET'S TRY SOMETHIN' ELSE!
IT'S YOUR MONEY, HOMBRE!
BUT THEN, A STRONG STEADY HAND GRASPS THE HOT-HEADED YOUTH'S SHOULDER...
BEN! YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH! QUIT NOW, WHILE YOU STILL HAVE SOME MONEY LEFT!
GET LOST, OUTLAW! WHEN I NEED A WET-NURSE, I'LL LET YA KNOW!
GAMBLING'S LEGAL IN THESE PARTS-- I'VE NO RIGHT TO STOP HIM! BUT I'D BETTER STAY! I HAVE A FEELIN' THAT JASPER IS IN FOR A HEAP OF TROUBLE!
BAH! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME?? I CAN'T DO ANYTHING RIGHT TODAY!!
EVERY GAME IN THIS PLACE IS RIGGED-- BUT BASSETT CAN'T STOP HIMSELF!
TOO BAD, BOY! YOUR LUCK'S JUST AS BAD AT THE WHEEL!
THAT CLEANS ME! I'VE LOST IT ALL!
IT'S A REAL CRYIN' SHAME, BEN!
I TRIED TO WARN YOU, BEN! ALL THE ODDS WERE AGAINST YOU!
LOOK, KID--I TOLD YA ONCE TO BUTT OUT OF MY BUSINESS, DIDN'T I? WHAT ARE YOU AFTER, ANYWAY??

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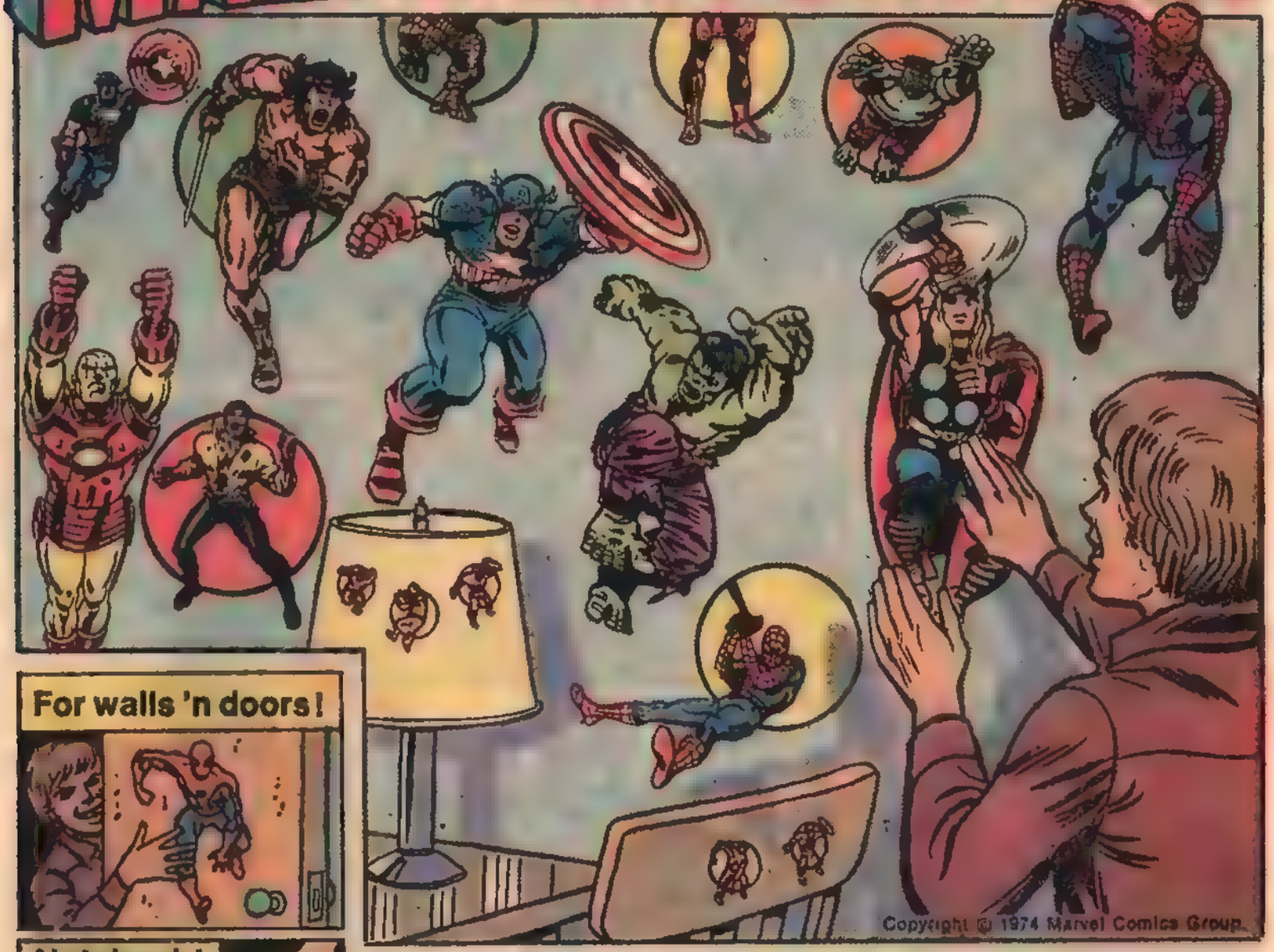

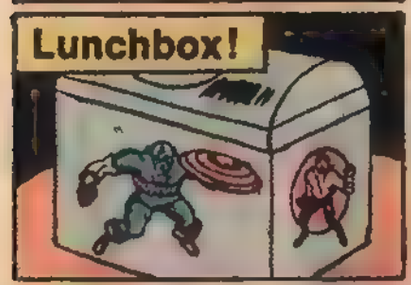

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I'M NOT AFTER ANYTHING! I'M JUST TRYIN' TO TALK SOME SENSE TO YA--TO STOP YOU FROM GETTIN' IN DEEPER AND DEEPER, UNTIL--
UNTIL I BECOME AN OWLHOOT LIKE YOU--IS THAT WHAT YA MEAN??
THAT REMINDS ME! THERE'S A REWARD OFFERED FOR YOU, KID! NONE OF THE OTHER JASPERS IN TOWN HAVE THE NERVE TO CLAIM IT, BUT I'M DIFFERENT!
DON'T GO FOR THAT GUN!
ALRIGHT, I'LL STOP YA LIKE THIS THEN! I'M A LOT TOUGHER THAN YA THOUGHT, KID!
WITH THE REWARD MONEY FOR YOUR CAPTURE AS A STAKE, I'LL HIT THE OWLHOOT TRAIL MYSELF--BUT I'LL BE A LOT MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN YOU!
I COULD WHUP HIM WITH ONE HAND IN MY POCKET! BUT I CAN'T GO BACK ON THE PROMISE I MADE TO HIS DAD! I'VE GOT TO HELP 'IM--BUT HOW?!?!
BEN! STOP IT! YOU CAN'T TURN IN A MAN WHO'S BEEN TRYING TO HELP YOU! BEN! PLEASE--FOR ME!
STAY OUTTA THIS, MAYBELLE! GIRLS DON'T KNOW ANYTHIN' ABOUT THESE THINGS!
THAT MUST BE HIS GAL FRIEND! MAYBE SHE CAN TALK SOME SENSE TO 'IM BEFORE I HAVE TO GET ROUGH!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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BEN BASSETT! IF YOU DON'T STOP RIGHT THIS VERY MINUTE, I'LL BREAK OUR ENGAGEMENT! I'LL NEVER MARRY YOU!
HOLD ON, NOW! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKIN' TO??
THIS IS MY CHANCE-- I'LL TRY TO GET AWAY!
MAYBE I WON'T WANNA MARRY UP WITH YOU! MAYBE I WANT A GAL WITH MORE BACKBONE! A HOMBRE WHO'S FIXIN' TO BECOME A BADMAN DOESN'T WANT TO MARRY A CRYBABY!
Y-YOU DON'T LOVE ME AFTER ALL!
I'VE GOT NO TIME FOR LOVE! AND I GOT NO TIME FOR YOU! NOW YOU JUST WALK YOURSELF ON OUT OF HERE, GAL! WHEN I WANT YOU, I'LL SEND FOR YOU!
YOU MEAN IT! YOU REALLY MEAN IT!
YOU'RE BLAMED RIGHT I MEAN IT! IT'S ABOUT TIME THAT EVERYBODY IN THESE PARTS GETS TO REALIZE THAT BASSETT THE BADMAN MEANS WHAT HE SAYS!
HOW COULD I EVER HAVE THOUGHT I LOVED YOU?? HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SUCH A BLIND FOOL??!
I LIKE THE WAY YOU HANDLED YOURSELF THERE, BASSETT! AND, IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN GETTIN' BACK ALL THE MONEY YOU LOST, I'VE GOT A PROPOSITION FOR YOU!
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE COMIN' AROUND, WILKS! SURE, SPEAK YOUR PIECE! I'M LISTENIN'!

LET'S STEP INTO MY OFFICE, BASSETT--WHERE WE CAN TALK WITHOUT BEIN' DISTURBED!
HE'S STARTIN' TO TREAT ME LIKE I'M A BIG MAN ALREADY!
PRIVATE
THIS IS GREAT! NEXT TO ME, KID COLT IS GONNA BE SMALL POTATOES!
I'M GONNA GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS! YOU CLAIM YOU'VE GOT THE MAKIN'S OF A BADMAN! WELL, I'VE GOT A LITTLE KILLIN' FOR YOU TO DO!
YOU MEAN-- MURDER SOMEONE?!?!
YEAH! IT WON'T BE HARD! MY BOYS AIM TO ROB THE BANK --AND WE NEED SOMEONE TO SILENCE THE MANAGER--FOR GOOD!
YOU'RE LOCO! I DIDN'T BARGAIN FOR ANY KIND OF JOB LIKE THAT!
I KNEW IT! YOU'RE NO BAD-MAN! YOU JUST TALK TOUGH! WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN, YOU'RE JUST A SCARED KID!
SCARED KID, AM I?? I'LL SHOW YA WHO'S A SCARED KID! HOW MUCH DOES THAT SHOOTIN' PAY?
WE'LL SETTLE THAT AFTER THE JOB! FIRST, I HAVE TO SEE IF YOU'RE WORTH THE MONEY-- AND WE'LL FIND OUT TONIGHT!

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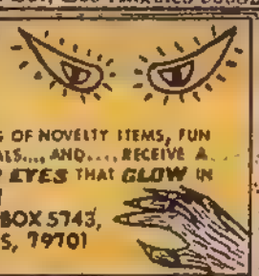

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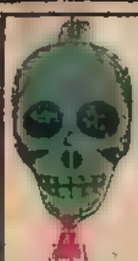

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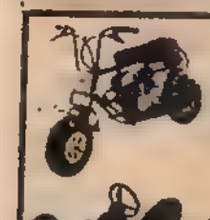

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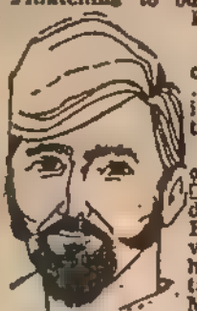

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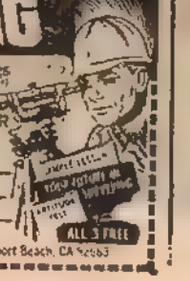

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AND SO, A FEW HOURS LATER THAT NIGHT...
THIS IS THE PLACE! I RECKON THERE'S NO BACKIN' OUT FOR ME NOW! THIS IS IT!
BANK
MR. HORNBY, ARE YOU HERE ALL ALONE TONIGHT?
OF COURSE, SON! IT'S PAST BANKING HOURS SO I DISMISSED THE STAFF!
IF YOU HAVE A TRANSACTION TO MAKE, YOU'LL HAVE TO RETURN TOMORROW MORNING--!
THE TRANSACTION I WANNA MAKE CAN BE DONE RIGHT NOW! JUST HAND OVER ALL THE DOUGH FROM YOUR SAFE!
LOOK, BASSETT! IF THAT'S A JOKE, IT'S IN VERY POOR TASTE!
IT'S NO JOKE, HOMBRE! YOU SHOULDA DONE WHAT THE KID SAID! NOW WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE IT THE HARD WAY!
WHO'S THAT??!
IT'S ME, FARO WILKS--WITH A FEW OF MY BOYS! I DON'T MIND YOU KNOWIN', BECAUSE YOU AIN'T EVER GONNA TELL ANYONE!
WHA--WHAT DO YOU MEAN??
HE MEANS WE'RE FIXIN' TO ROB THIS BANK, MISTER! AND THERE AIN'T NOTHIN' YOU CAN DO TO STOP US!

I MEAN MORE THAN THAT, BASSETT! YOU KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO--NOW DO IT!
OKAY! OKAY! DON'T RUSH ME!
I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS, MR. HORNBY!
NO! YOU CAN'T! YOU WOULDN'T! I-I'VE KNOWN YOU SINCE YOU WERE A BOY! I KNEW YOUR FATHER! NO, BEN--DON'T!!
STOP IT!! STOP SAYIN' THAT, DO YA HEAR??
I-I CAN'T BEAR TO HEAR IT--TO THINK ON IT! I DIDN'T SUSPICION THAT BEIN' A BAD-MAN WOULD BE LIKE THIS--!
SHOOT, BASSETT! SHOOT, BLAST YOU!
THEN, WHEELING ABOUT SUDDENLY, THE TORMENTED YOUTH SHOVES THE STARTLED BANK MANAGER OUT OF THE LINE OF FIRE AS HE DOES SHOOT--AT THE GUNMEN BEHIND HIM!
TAKE COVER, MR. HORNBY!
ALRIGHT, WILKS! I'LL SHOOT! JUST LIKE YOU TOLD ME TO!
HE'S DOUBLE-CROSSIN' US! GUN 'IM DOWN! HURRY!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

A [illegible] COLLECTION OF CAPTIVATING CAPSULE COMMENTS CALCULATED TO CONFUSE YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

This is it! The recognition we've all been waiting for! You've read movie reviews, book reviews, record reviews, right? Well, now at last, the nation's top literary critics have begun reviewing comics— or, at least, a book about Marvel Comics! I know you're as anxious to read their verdict as I was, so without any further ado, here's the first batch of notices for the ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS--

Ray Bradbury, in the LOS ANGELES TIMES: "Stan Lee's new volume is the very stuff for you. It is, as he puts it, 'a pictorial tonic to relieve the awesome affliction that threatens us all: the endlessly spreading virus of too much reality in a world that is losing its heroes.' Stan's book is to me a better light bulb. Frivolous? Perhaps. Frightening? Sometimes. With hidden meanings. Stan Lee's comics are better than Lichtenstein can ever hope to be." THE DAILY ENTERPRISE-SUN: "Comicbook heroes are making a comeback. Nowhere is that comeback put together so attractively as in this winner by Stan Lee. It's the best of the comic collections." SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER: "The name Stan Lee is known to millions of comic-book fans all over the world. Marvel Comics sell in dozens of countries at a rate of 75 million a year." PLAYBOY: "Very much fun. People have written graduate papers on just such themes, and for them— and all other true believers— we're heading for the newsstand." CUE: "These are fairy tales for older people. They are fun, like Vonnegut and Tolkien. The last place where you can recapture the fantasy— the wonder—" BOOK-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB NEWS: "A snappy new book. One of the good things about Lee's ORIGINS is that for each hero discussed he reproduces the subject's first adventure story along with a more recent episode." WOMAN'S WEAR DAILY: "Lee— might almost be a movie director using the storyboard approach." FAMILY WEEKLY "Stan Lee is in 'big time' publishing." THE PITT NEWS: "This work— is integral to the development of each of the fictional characters created by Marvel. It is a geneology, a bible. The greatest criticism of the book is that it is not enough." BERGEN COUNTY RECORD "ORIGINS holds one's interest— Lee's writing is as colorful as the book's reprints of historic back issues. What also holds the reader is its recounting of the feeling that went into the creation of the superheroes." THE RUTGERS DAILY TARGUM: "The one you've been waiting for. The one book you can't afford to miss." PHILADELPHIA BULLETIN: "Stan Lee, guiding genius of "Marvelmania" in comic books, has included some gloriously marvelmaniacal comics in this sampler. Even adults, especially gallery-goers, should enjoy the artistry of Marvel Comics books; far and away the leaders in their field." CHICAGO NEWS: "True believers, step right up!"

And that's only a sample of the hundreds that are pouring in! Who says comics aren't an idea whose time has come? Who says your blushin' Bullpen hasn't achieved the year's most stupendous literary breakthrough? Who says this isn't the Marvel Age of Comics? And before some wiseguy shouts "I says!", I'm cuttin' out— it's time to take a troll to tea!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! What's that, Tigers? You say you've been silently scanning those lilting letters pages you've become so avariciously addicted to while reading our titanic titles to these many Marvelous years, and you've yet to find the startling new MARVEL VALUE STAMPS we've been promising to toss at ya for the past few months? Well, don't fret, Fearless Ones, your eagle eyes aren't failing you—it's just that the ever-unpredictable inmates of your batty Marvel Bullpen have decided to go all out as usual in their quest to provide the most royally rapturous recreation possible for True Believers everywhere. When the now-legendary SECOND SERIES of MVStamps finally assaults your wide-open orbs in just a few short weeks, they will stun you, they will shock you, they will leave you utterly speechless—for in all your years as madcap Marvelites, you will never in your memory have seen the like of what we have in store for you! And remember, even though the concept is so daringly different, you'll still be able to treat yourself to the same glamorous goodies and more when all one hundred startling stamps are at last in your pulse-pounding possession! Truth to tell, we wouldn't do all this if we didn't love ya!

ITEM! Everyone here has heard the name DAMON RUNYON. He's the scintillating author whose singular view of the screwy city called New York has delighted the hearts of millions everywhere, and birthed such world-renowned productions as "Guys and Dolls" and "Pocketful of Miracles." A genius, right? So who'd ever have thought that TONY (The Tiger) ISABELLA, bare-faced youth from Cleveland, would someday move to Fun City and directly into the penthouse apartment once owned by the illustrious Mr. Runyon himself. We won't say that this startling fact has had any sort of adverse effect on the Tigerish One, but we've noticed a disturbing tendency for names like "Sky Masterson" and "Apple Annie" to pop up in Tony's scripts of late. A subtle influence—or perhaps more? (Wow, what a strange idea—the GHOST RIDER scripted by a ghost writer!)

ITEM! Hey, hope you're one of the lucky ones who's been latching onto the minor masterpieces Judo JIM STARLIN has been turning out every sixty days on the all-new, all-improved WARLOCK strip. As far as we can tell, STRANGE TALES fanatics everywhere are flipping their collective corks over the spectacular Mr. Starlin's dynamic drawings (not to mention his sizzling scripting and capricious coloring). In fact, the only discouraging words we've heard at all thus far have come from a gregarious grey gargoyle called The Golem—and we suspect that he might be just a wee bit prejudiced! Also, let's not forget Dynamic DAVE COCKRUM, whose fan dream of a lifetime came true when he was chosen to illustrate the equally-all-new, equally-all-improved adventures of the X-cruciatingly X-citing X-MEN, who are currently cavorting in their brand-new GIANT-SIZE mag! Who says this ain't the Marvel Age of Sensational Second Chances?

ITEM! And just so you don't think we're sitting on our slightly-wilted laurels, we're gonna let you in on a few searing secrets! Listen closely now... we're gonna whisper 'cause we don't want the competition to hear the names of our newest stars! They'll be popping up in their own spanking-new features in the next few months—and we want you to be prepared for 'em! So look out for BLOODSTONE—he stalks the shadowed lands WHERE MONSTERS DWELL! And the sinister SCARECROW will be waiting for you in the DEAD OF NIGHT! The mind-boggling MODRED THE MYSTIC will be battling arcane forces in the back of GIANT-SIZE WEREWOLF! And lastly, prepare yourself for the coming of SKULL THE SLAYER, a character with a story-line so powerful, we haven't decided where we're gonna present it just yet. Hang in there, Pilgrim—the best is yet to come. (And if you have a few paltry sheckles left over, you might want to pick up the first pulse-pounding issue of a little item called GIANT-SIZE INVADERS! It features the all-new adventures of CAPTAIN AMERICA and BUCKY, the savage SUB-MARINER, and the Original HUMAN TORCH and TORO, fighting for freedom in the torrid early days of World War Two! It's a concept so off-beat, you're just gonna have to love it!) And on that note, we return you to your regularly-scheduled Marvel mag...

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SPIDER-MAN in THE TRAP

MY SPIDER SENSE IS TINGLING!
MUST BE TROUBLE UP AHEAD!
HERE COMES SPIDER-MAN BOSS! YOUR CALCULATIONS WERE RIGHT!
CERTAINLY THEY WERE! ARE YOU MEN READY WITH THE SUPER-STEEL SPIDER-NET?
SURE, BOSS! HE'LL NEVER BREAK OUT OF THIS! HA HA HA!
THEN THROW IT, YOU LUNKHEADS-- NOW!
UH-OH! I KNEW THIS WASN'T GONNA BE MY DAY!
YOUR DAYS ARE NUMBERED, SPIDER-MAN! YOU'LL NEVER ESCAPE FROM OUR WINDOWLESS, FIVE-FOOT-THICK CONCRETE SECURITY CELL! TAKE HIM AWAY, BOYS!
RATS! LOOKS LIKE THEY REALLY GOT ME UNLESS...
HEY, HOT-SHOT! WHY NOT BE A REAL NICE GUY AND LET ME OUT OF HERE?
NO CHANCE, WEB-HEAD! NOT EVEN FOR A MILLION BUCKS!
NO? THEN HOW ABOUT FOR SOME DELICIOUS HOSTESS FRUIT PIES?
GEE--YOU GOT HOSTESS FRUIT PIES?
NEVER GO ANYPLACE WITHOUT THEM-- AND YOU CAN HAVE 'EM ALL IF YOU SET ME FREE!
THE BOSS WILL HAVE MY HEAD BUT...
GEE--LIGHT FLAKY CRUST! REAL FRUIT FILLING!
YOU GOT A DEAL, WEB-SLINGER!
THERE YOU GO, LUNKHEAD! I KNEW YOU COULDN'T RESIST HOSTESS FRUIT PIES!
WOW! APPLE...CHERRY... BLUEBERRY... MY TASTE BUDS ARE PANTING!
HOSTESS
FRUIT PIE
CHERRY
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NOW TO TAKE CARE OF THE BOSS MAN AND THE REST OF THE GANG! BETWEEN MY WEBBING AND DELICIOUS HOSTESS FRUIT PIES, THEY HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE!
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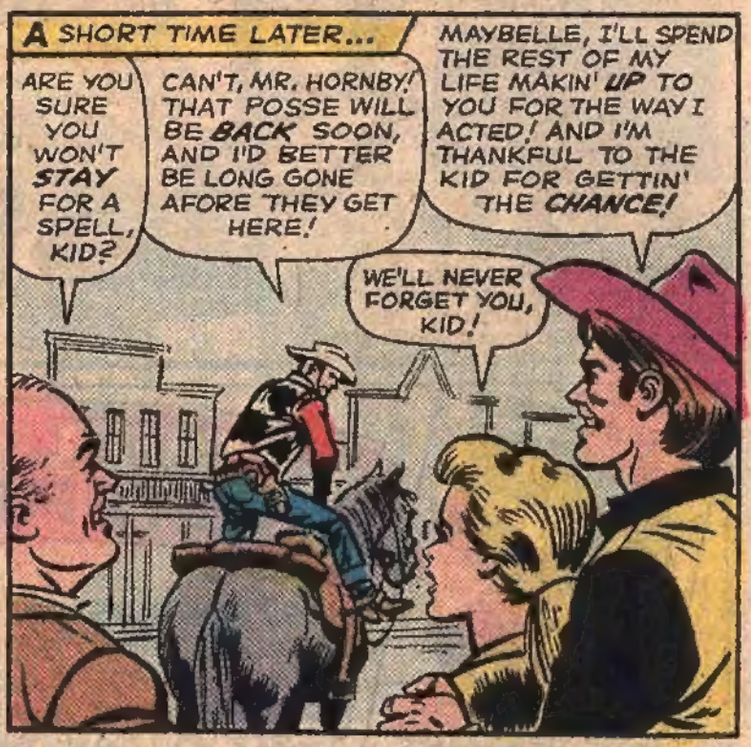
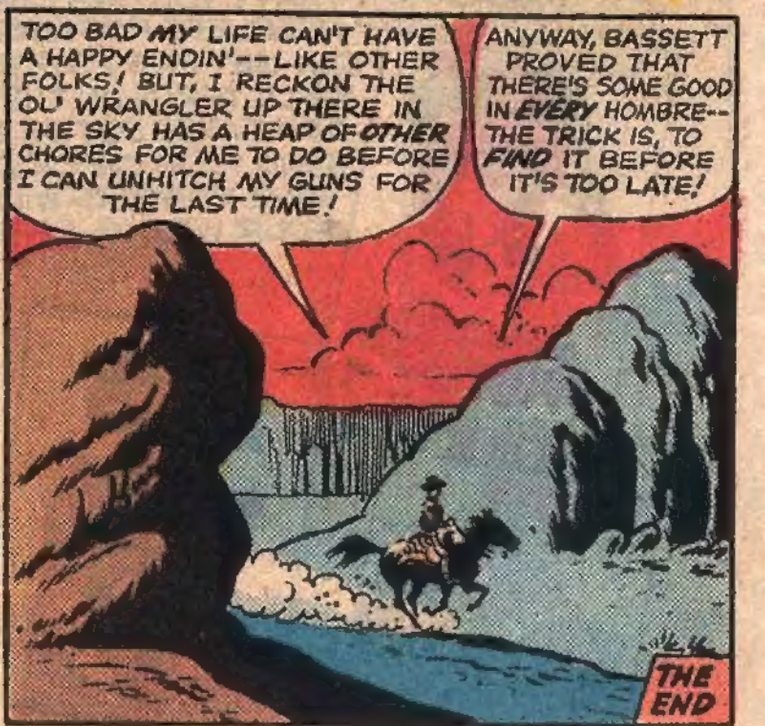
QUICK! DUCK BEHIND THAT DESK!
I TOOK 'EM SO MUCH BY SURPRISE, THAT THEY AINT GOT THE RANGE YET! WE STILL HAVE A CHANCE!
BUT, ANY SLIM CHANCE BEN BASSETT MIGHT HAVE HAD, QUICKLY FADES AWAY AS HE REALIZES...
OH--NO!! I-I'M OUT OF AMMO!!
CLICK!
CLICK!
CLICK!
HIS GUNS ARE EMPTY! LET'S GET 'IM BEFORE HE CAN RELOAD!
LET ME HAVE THE FIRST CRACK AT THAT YELLA COYOTE!
OH NO! HE'S MINE!
NOBODY CROSSES FARO WILKS AND GETS AWAY WITH IT!
SUDDENLY, THE SHRILL SOUND OF BREAKING GLASS CUTS THRU THE BANK LIKE A THUNDERCLAP, AS A RACING, SNARLING, SHOOTING FIGURE CRASHES IN...!
ALRIGHT, HOMBRES-- THE PARTY'S OVER!
UGHHH! MY HAND!
IT'S THE KID!! WHERE'D HE COME FROM???

I'VE BEEN TAILIN' YOU ALL THE TIME--BUT I HAD TO WAIT TILL I WAS SURE BASSETT REALLY WAS WORTH SAVIN'!
YOU WAITED TOO LONG, KID! I'M FINISHIN' YA RIGHT NOW!

NO YOU DON'T, WILKS! I RECKON I KNOW NOW WHICH SIDE I'M ON!
BLAST YOU! YOU MADE MY SHOT GO WILD!

IT'S LUCKY FOR YOU I DID! AT LEAST YOU'LL ESCAPE THE GALLOWS! YOU OUGHTTA BE GRATEFUL TO ME--JUST LIKE I'M GRATEFUL TO KID COLT!


A SHORT TIME LATER...
ARE YOU SURE YOU WON'T STAY FOR A SPELL, KID?
CAN'T, MR. HORNBY! THAT POSSE WILL BE BACK SOON, AND I'D BETTER BE LONG GONE AFORE THEY GET HERE!
MAYBELLE, I'LL SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE MAKIN' UP TO YOU FOR THE WAY I ACTED! AND I'M THANKFUL TO THE KID FOR GETTIN' THE CHANCE!
WE'LL NEVER FORGET YOU, KID!


TOO BAD MY LIFE CAN'T HAVE A HAPPY ENDIN'--LIKE OTHER FOLKS! BUT, I RECKON THE OL' WRANGLER UP THERE IN THE SKY HAS A HEAP OF OTHER CHORES FOR ME TO DO BEFORE I CAN UNHITCH MY GUNS FOR THE LAST TIME!
ANYWAY, BASSETT PROVED THAT THERE'S SOME GOOD IN EVERY HOMBRE--THE TRICK IS, TO FIND IT BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
THE END

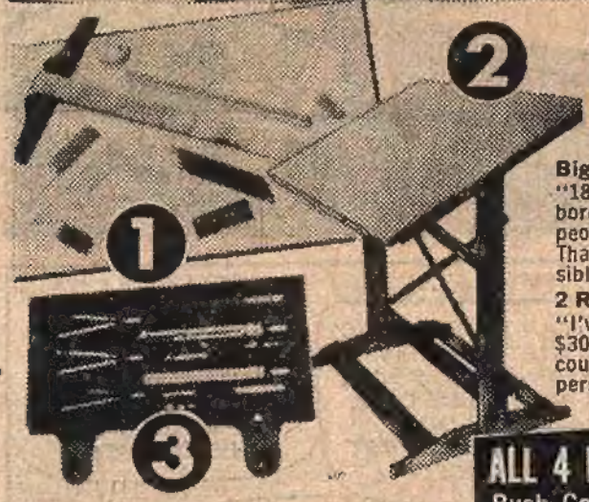
THESE 3 BIG DRAFTING KITS* GIVEN TO YOU!

Coast-to-Coast Shortage of Trained Draftsmen Opens Thousands Big Salary Jobs for Beginners!

Now you can take your pick of thousands of big salary jobs open to Draftsmen (see "help wanted" sections of metropolitan newspapers). Huge nationwide demand . . . U.S. Dept. of Labor reports "42% more Draftsmen needed in next 10 years—not enough applicants to fill drafting jobs available now!" Our easy "Quick-Learn" Method has helped hundreds toward good income, security and prestige as Draftsmen. Why not you?

YOU NEED NO DRAWING SKILL . . . NO TECHNICAL ABILITY

Our staff of Professional Draftsmen guide you step-by-step. With our spare time home-study plan you work on actual projects. Makes learning fun—easy to remember, too. Many graduates have succeeded with only grade school training. Others report good earnings drafting part time while still learning!



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CAPTAIN AMERICA
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☐ SPIDER-MAN ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA ☐ HULK.

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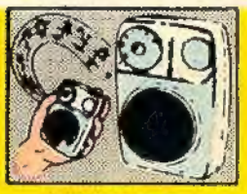
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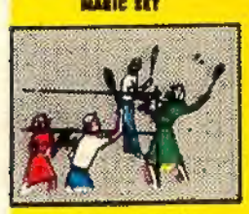
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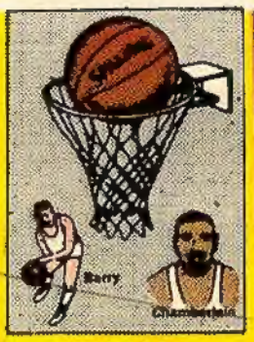

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They make my customers' gardens grow as well as my bank account.
Scott Bloom
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